

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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O 211700Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8800

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3044

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF FOURTH ARMY INVITATION

REF: RECIFE 0058

1. IN THE EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT, THE GROSSNESS OF THE ACTION REPORTED IN REFTEL AND THE STIMULATION TO SIMILAR ACTIONS THAT PASSIVITY MAY BRING ABOUT REQUIRE THAT THE MATTER BE BROUGHT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ATTENTION. THEREFORE, WE PLAN TO SEND THE NOTE IN PARA TWO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BECAUSE, HOWEVER, OF THE CHANCE THAT THE PROTEST MAY ACTIVATE THE ARMY'S SENSE OF SOLIDARITY AND IN SOME WAY AFFECT THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, WE WANT TO GET THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS. WE POINT OUT THAT WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE VISIT WILL INTRODUCE A CONSIDERABLE DELAY, THUS WEAKENING THE NOTE'S EFFECT, AND WILL PROBABLY BE READ AS A DESIRE TO HOLD OFF UNTIL THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

.....AND HAS THE HONOR TO DRAW ITS ATTENTION TO AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN RECIFE, PERNAMBUCO, INVOLVING A SERIOUS DISCOURTESY BY BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES TOWARD THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN THAT CITY AND THEREFORE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

ON APRIL 16, 1975, THE COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH ARMY SENT AN INVITATION ADDRESSED TO THE AMERICAN
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CONSUL IN RECIFE TO ATTEND A CEREMONY ON APRIL 19

COMMEMORATING THE 327TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GUARARAPES. THE AMERICAN CONSULATE ADVISED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FOURTH ARMY ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 17 THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSULATE WOULD BE PLEASED TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY. AT 0800 HOURS ON APRIL 18, A SERGEANT OF THE FOURTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE AMERICAN CONSULATE AND STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN ORDERED TO WITHDRAW THE INVITATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE CEREMONY WAS FOR BRAZILIAN MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ONLY AND THAT THE CONSULAR CORPS HAD BEEN INVITED THROUGH SECRETARIAL ERROR.

A NUMBER OF FOREIGN CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES IN RECIFE HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE INVITATIONS THEY RECEIVED WERE NOT IN FACT WITHDRAWN. THE CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE COUNTRIES ADVISED US THAT THEY ATTENDED THE CEREMONY ON APRIL 19.

THIS UNUSUAL ACTION OF POINTEDLY EXCLUDING THE AMERICAN CONSULATE FROM A CERMONY AT WHICH CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES WERE INCLUDED CONSTITUTES A BREACH OF THE STANDARDS OF COMMON COURTESY AND RESPECT DUE TO THE US AS A FRIENDLY FOREIGN NATION AND ITS CONSULAR REPRESENTATION. THE EMBASSY OF THE US EXPRESSES ITS SURPRISE AND CONCERN THAT IT TOOK PLACE. IT ANTICIPATES THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL TAKE STEPS TO SEE THAT INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE WILL NOT RECUR.

STANDARD CLOSING PARAGRAPH. END OF TEXT

3. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.
CRIMMINS

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NNN

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